

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A text mining system for providing query-based search data for use in a lead generation system accessible by the client via the Internet, comprising:

5 a data acquisition process for extracting text data from Internet web sites, Internet newsgroups, Internet mailing lists, and corporate text files;

a database for storing the extracted text data;

10 a text mining server for formulating and executing query-based searches of the database, and for providing output views representing the results of the searches;

a repository for storing the output views; and

15 a web server for providing access to the text mining server via a web browser and the Internet, such that the client may execute query-based searches on line via the Internet.

2. The text mining system of Claim 1, wherein the corporate text files are items of digitally recorded  
20 correspondence.

3. The text mining system of Claim 1, wherein the corporate text files are digital voice records.

25 4. The text mining system of Claim 1, wherein the data acquisition process is implemented with a web crawler.

5. The text mining system of Claim 1, further comprising a user profiles database, and wherein the mining server further accesses the user profiles database for use in formulating queries.

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6. The text mining system of Claim 1, wherein the data acquisition process further accesses Internet voice-to-text files.

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7. A text mining method for providing query-based search data for use in a lead generation system accessible by the client via the Internet, comprising the steps of:

- 5       storing the extracted text data in a first database;  
      formulating and executing query-based searches of  
      the first database, and for providing output views  
      representing the results of the searches;  
      storing the output views in a second database; and  
10       providing access to the text mining server via a web  
      browser and the Internet, such that the client may  
      execute query-based searches on line via the Internet.

8. The text mining method of Claim 7, wherein the  
15       corporate text files are items of digitally recorded  
      correspondence.

9. The text mining method of Claim 7, wherein the  
      corporate text files are digital voice records.

- 20       10. The text mining method of Claim 7, wherein the  
      data acquisition process is implemented with a web  
      crawler.

- 25       11. The text mining method of Claim 7, further  
      comprising the steps of storing user profiles in a user  
      profiles database, and of accessing the user profiles  
      database during the step of formulating queries.